

A SPECIAL EDITION OF THE MEDIA WEEKLY COMMENT PUBLISHED IN OBSERVANCE OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MEDIA FREE LIBRARY

NEW HOME OF MEDIA FREE LIBRARY . . .



Media's Free Library will, at some time in the future, move to larger quarters at Front and Jackson streets. The building, on the North East corner, is now occupied by the Red Cross. They have a lease on the building. The property, owned by the Sprugel estate, was willed to the Library Association. The present library building, on Jackson street next to Borough Hall, was built by the late James B. Flounders, is still in fine condition. The other property, however, will afford needed space for any expansion program contemplated for the future.

A LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS FROM MEDIA'S FIRST LIBRARIAN

Miss Edith H. John, of Long Beach, N. Y., former Media resident and first librarian of the Media Public Library, takes time out to reminisce in the following letter to the trustees and librarian upon the occasion of the institution's 50th anniversary.

Her letter follows:

Long Beach, N. Y.
May 17, 1951.

To the Trustees of the Media Public Library, and the Librarian.
"Dear Miss Kruse:

"My sincere congratulations on your 50th anniversary. It was a great pleasure to hear from my first library, and to find that two of my old friends have it in hand. I have hoped to go out in Media during one of my trips to see my brothers, but have not been able to arrange it so far. I hear the town has changed much, and I know the Library has grown with it, as that is the way with libraries.

"As I look back to my beginning days, I wonder that I had the temerity to attempt the job without any preparation for it, but my college education and my interest in books and reading. I wanted to be a librarian, and I specialized in literature at college, as that at least was some preparation.

"But I did not have a chance at it until the Media Library was started, four years later. Mary Allen saved the day. She was a graduate of the Library School at Drexel Institute, and a practicing librarian, and as she was on vacation at the time, she was willing to spend some of it in guiding me in the way I should go. I presume that she selected the books that were bought and recommended them to the Board, also that she had a hand in making the proper arrangements for the room and the furniture, for I had nothing to do with that. I think we had an Association, whose members paid two dollars a year, and also a grant from the School Board.

"As to the Library Board, I do not seem to remember them all. Dr. Clark was president; Mrs. Harry Wirz, the treasurer; Mr. Broomall and maybe Mr. Watters, principal of the public school—there must have been five. I do remember how patient and kind they were with me.

"The room over the fire company was small and square, but adequate for the time. The firemen were nice to me and let me use their phone, and I had the excitement of seeing them bring the horses from the adjacent livery stable, and of hearing the "cuss words" that accompanied the preparations for going to a fire. I also could hear about it afterward. We began work



MISS EDITH JOHN

Miss Edith John was the first Librarian of the Media Free Library Association, serving from 1901 until 1906.

there before we opened, preparing the books for circulation under Mary Allen's direction. The children's books were shelved to the left of the door, and the adult fiction at the right, with non-fiction on the outside wall. The desk was across the corner opposite the door, and the catalogue was upon it. There was a long reading table in the center, with a few chairs.

"My hours were from 2 to 9.30, Monday to Friday, which I found irksome at times, as it almost cut me off from any social life. But the hours were short, and I enjoyed the work. I had two weeks' vacation each year, and somehow attended some library meetings and learned what others were doing. At that time, Melville Dewey, Chas. Cutter and other famous librarians were living, and I saw and heard them, and the Drexel Institute Library School had been recently established, so I got the larger vision of the growth and organization of the Public Library idea which came to fruition during these 50 years.

"One summer day, I do not remember the date, we had a Library Institute for one day. We closed the Library. I think, for the afternoon session. At that time, Robert Bliss was Librarian of the Theological Seminary in Chester, and he stopped in to see the Library on some of his visits to Media. I asked him questions and he helped and en-

couraged me. It was he who suggested the Institute and helped me with the necessary business. The Board approved the idea, and I went ahead with it, scared, but was rewarded by the interest shown by other librarians, and the feeling that it was a success. A group of librarians came from Chester, Wilmington, and other adjacent communities, and the day was fine. We met in the Firemen's Parlor. The principal of the Drexel Library School spoke and of course Mr. Bliss, and I do not remember who else.

"The first of July when we opened, the thermometer went up to 100 degrees, and it stayed around there for three or four days. I have many pleasant memories of people who used the Library. Some brought books and flowers. One boy read one book over and over, and when asked why, said that he knew that one was good, but he did not know about the others. There were the readers who did not like books written by women, nor those with the portrait of the author as frontispiece, etc.

"Finally in 1906, the Brooklyn Public Library advertised for a children's librarian in a new Carnegie Library, and I took the examination and passed so I moved to the big city. After that I tried various kinds of libraries, until I finally accumulated enough cash to stop work for a year and attend the New York Library School at Albany, now the School of Library Service at Columbia.

"After graduation, I worked in the Library Commissions in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, conducting their summer Library Schools, and helping organize new libraries. I was called to Long Beach to organize their Library, and stayed to run it for 17 years, and retire on a state pension in 1945.

"So here I am, with so many interests, that I find it difficult to get away."

FIRST BOOK

The first book catalogued by the Librarian, Miss Edith John, of the Media Free Library Association, was "THE FRONTIERSMAN," on July 2, 1901.

The book, a novel by Gustave Aimard, deals with an attempt to pioneer the wilderness of western New York State. It was published about 1854 by the F. M. Lupton Publishing Company of New York.

On examination of the novel's blue bookcard, it is easy to see it was not a "best-seller," having been first borrowed in March, 1902, and only eleven other times thereafter. The last entry was in 1911.

MEDIA FREE LIBRARY OBSERVES ITS FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY

By ARTHUR B. GRIFFITH

The year 1951 marks the end of the fiftieth year of continuous service to the residents of Media on the part of the faithful and helpful Librarians and of the citizens in several generations who have served as members of the Board of Trustees of the Media Free Library Association.

The Library, as libraries go, is neither young nor old, but, shall we say, "in its prime." We like to think, however, that it is still young enough to learn, to absorb ideas from others, and to constantly look toward improvement of its facilities.

But we also like to think that it is mature enough to wisely appraise all possibilities—and to live within its means.

It is not possible for a small library to meet all the desires of all its patrons; but with close attention and intelligent use of the facilities and the funds that we have, it is entirely feasible to meet the varying needs of each generation as "time marches on."

We may not always be in step in this marching, since the Trustees are of varying ages, but with youth to urge us on, and age to make haste slowly, we should be able to keep our Library abreast of the times, and to try to main-

tain a source of reliable information, to assist in the development of a sense of the responsibilities of citizenship, and to enable intelligent people to act with wisdom and foresight in perilous times.

We shall continue to do the best we can, with thankful appreciation of the kindly support, the financial assistance, and the donations of books that come every month from

the many interested friends of the Library.

We also thank the 275 contributing members of the Media Free Library Association, whose annual dues, in amount varying from one dollar to twenty-five dollars are of great help in assisting us to meet the financial needs of the Library.

Arthur B. Griffith,
President.

CURRENTLY PRESIDENT . . .



ARTHUR B. GRIFFITH

Mr. Griffith, prominent in textile manufacturing, is currently president of the Media Free Library Association. He is the third to hold this position. He was elected to succeed the late Robert Fussell and has served in this capacity continuously since.

I USE THE MEDIA LIBRARY

By VAUGHAN GORDY

When I first joined the Media Free Library it seemed to me a huge place full of adventurous books. At that time I was about six years old and my reading ability was limited. Yet, I found an ample supply of reading material suited to me. As I advanced in age I found more and more books that I could read and understand. I passed from "The Bobbsey Twins" up through "Carolyn Keene" mysteries.

I remember how at the age of nine or ten I thrilled to that old favorite "Black Beauty," after which came "Justin Morgan Had a Horse," "Misty of Chingutic," "King of the Wind" and "The Black Stallion" series.

It was about this time I was confined to my bed with rheumatic fever. The librarians were very helpful in helping mother pick out books I would enjoy. They not only sent fictional books, but many others full of jokes, games, and things to make. I know that, but for our library, many hours would have passed very slowly for me.

The library is a constant source of information to many people. There you can learn how to do a tricky math problem, it can help you with a science report and, how about that French exam, you could never do. I can go there and learn the proper way to put on lipstick and catch up on the latest fashions (very important to a freshman) from the many magazines that our library keeps in stock. From these magazines it is possible to plan your garden, decorate a house, catch up on the latest dodads and get the latest cake winning recipe. The men and boys can catch up on the latest hunting and fishing aids, how to prolong the life of their car and how to make a complete workbench.

In school we are studying vocations. Our library stocks books, pamphlets and catalogues the various colleges send out, giving qualifications required for college entrance. There are also many books on careers and jobs that some of you future job holders should look into.

(Continued on page 7)

MEDIA HOST TO LIBRARIANS' ASSOCIATION IN 5-COUNTY AREA

Media will on November 14 (next Wednesday) play host to librarians from a five-county area.

Miss E. Louise Chase, Media Librarian since 1919, will be hostess.

Business and social sessions will be held in the American Legion Hall, Baltimore and South avenue, with both morning and afternoon sessions.

Librarians from Philadelphia, Bucks, Chester, Montgomery and Delaware Counties will attend.

Also, it is expected, many members of the Library Boards in these districts will be present.

These meetings are held three times each year. This is the regularly scheduled "fall" meeting, and the Librarians' Association will help Media observe its fiftieth anniversary. The Association has been in existence for over forty years.

The program follows:

Philadelphia District Library Association

Fall Meeting—November 14, 1951.

Media, Pa.

MORNING SESSION—10.30 to 12.00

Welcoming Address—Mr. Arthur B. Griffith, President of the Board, Free Library of Media.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PUBLICITY FOR THE SMALL LIBRARY

The Bookmobile as a means of publicity—Miss Eleanor V. Downes, Librarian, Springfield Library.

The Springfield Library Bookmobile will be available for inspection. Public Relations—Miss Marie D. Loizeaux, Editor, Wilson Bulletin. Recess until two o'clock for lunch and a visit to the Media Library which is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary.

AFTERNOON SESSION—2.00

Report on the Bedford Springs Meeting, Miss Charlot Fleck, Assistant Extension Librarian, Harrisburg, Pa.

Business Meeting, election of officers, payment of dues for the year. The meetings will be held in the American Legion Clubhouse, southeast corner of Baltimore and South avenues, Media. Trolleys run every 15 minutes from 30th Street. There is a train from 30th street, Pennsylvania Railroad, at 10.21, arriving at Media at 11.02.

Luncheon will be served at Montgomery's Restaurant, 29 North State street, at 1 o'clock, \$1.00. No reservations necessary.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Media Free Library Association having provided the citizens of Media and vicinity a library service since May 14, 1901, and is now celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding, and

WHEREAS, the effort of this organization and its members in providing The Borough of Media this very excellent service is recognized with great appreciation.

NOW, THEREFORE, the week of November 12, 1951, is proclaimed as MEDIA LIBRARY WEEK, all interested people are urged to participate in its program of celebration.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of The Borough of Media to be affixed this 1st day of Nov., 1951.

J. FRED SCHULTZ,
Burgess.



DR. ERNEST LABIN CLARK

The late Dr. Clark was first president of the Media Free Library Association.

OVER A MILLION FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PATRONS IN PAST FIFTY YEARS

"The newly organized Media Free Library Association took formal possession of their library room in the Borough Hall last evening (May 14, 1901), and met for the permanent organization, and if the attendance and interest evinced is any criterion of the subsequent meetings, the Association bids fair to be one of the strongest in Delaware County."

In fact, the attendance appears to have been so large that, "the Council Chamber was utilized." There were "about 40 persons present," according to the Record, "and the interest they manifested shows that they are workers for the benefit of the noble cause they have originated in the borough."

T. Chalkley Palmer was temporary chairman, and Miss Dora Lewis was the secretary.

Dr. Ernest L. Clark was elected as president of the Association. Professor Leon H. Watters, vice-president; Miss Dora Lewis, secretary; Mrs. Harry C. Smith, treasurer; and trustees were Mrs.

William Easby, Jr., George S. Yarnall, Mrs. William F. Lewis, Mrs. Henry M. Wirz, Horace P. Green, Esq., and Miss Sallie Williamson.

In July, 1901, during the week the Library was to open, the following appeared in the Chester Times:

"About seven hundred books—and more to come, everything is in readiness. The Media Free Library will be formally opened to the public on Thursday of this week." The "Times" noted that the Association expected to increase their number of books "at least 100 by the time winter weather comes."

The "Times" article also expressed the following: "The ladies and gentlemen of the Borough who have devoted their time and money to establishing this library trust that the people will take an interest in it. The library is something that the borough has needed for a long time, and if the public gives it the proper support, all the new books will be found there, and many a pleasant and profitable

evening can be spent. The room is in the Borough Hall, one of the most central places in the Borough."

But, the library was such a mounting success that in six years, it moved into its own building, erected by funds collected from the citizens of Media and surrounding communities.

The inscription on either side of the entrance reads:

MEDIA FREE LIBRARY
ASSOCIATION
ORGANIZED 1901
ERECTED BY PUBLIC
DONATIONS
1907

Officers of Library

In the fifty years of the Library's existence, there have been three presidents of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Ernest Labin Clark, 1901 to 1927, Robert Fussell, 1927 to 1933, and the present officer, Arthur B. Griffith since 1933.

Six treasurers: Anna Cheyney Smith, Mrs. Alfred L. Hawkins,

Anne J. Darlington, Robert Fussell, John Vance Lattimer, and Edward Hudson Rigby.

Four secretaries: Miss Dora Lewis, Mrs. Annie T. Wirz, Miss Elizabeth W. Tyndale, Miss Esther F. Bell, and Miss Anne Longstreth.

The growth of the library in 1921 necessitated a full-time assistant librarian. Miss Elizabeth Hall recommended Miss Olga V. Dee. And, it was in September of 1921 that Miss Dee began her duties. Miss Dee built up an extensive file of clippings and pictures. She has served continuously from September 1921.

There were three part-time assistants during the early years of the library. Miss Helen Janeway (now Mrs. Griffith), Miss Page Dabney, Miss Evelyn Farguharson (now Mrs. Twiford Morris).

The Library also has had a number of substitute helpers through the more recent years.

Miss Martha Griswold, Miss Bertha Lafferty, Miss Phoebe Harvey, Miss Helen Suter, Miss Violet

Jefferies. These were all Media girls—all now living out of Media and married except for Miss Jefferies. Miss Helen Strong is the present substitute helper at the Library.

Board of Trustees

The members of the Board of Trustees of the Media Free Library Association from 1901 are as follows:

Ernest L. Clark, Prof. Leon H. Watters, Mrs. William Easby, Mrs. Anna Cheyney Smith, George S. Yarnall, Mrs. A. H. Wirz, Sarah H. Lewis, Miss Sallie Williamson, Horace P. Green, Miss Dora Lewis, Mrs. Alfred Long Hawkins, Henry L. Broomall, Miss Mary S. Allen, Walter Smedley, Dr. Edward Fitch, Mrs. John Cooke McAllister, William H. Dickinson, Miss Anne J. Darlington, Robert Fussell (1908), Mr. Horace Manley, Walter H. Corkran, Miss Elizabeth Hall (1912), Albert J. Williams, Prof. A. B. Babbitt, Walter R. Johns, Miss Elizabeth W. Tyndale,

Walter Hibbert, C. Frank Williamson (1919), Miss Esther F. Bell (1920), John Vance Lattimer, Mrs. E. S. Wadsworth, Mrs. Irving W. Farquharson, Mrs. Maurice Zinn, Mrs. Ada Pomeroy, Miss Mildred Dallett, William H. Micheals, Mrs. Thomas Bartram, Mrs. Walter E. Wentz, Jr., Arthur R. Griffith (1926), Edward R. Longstreth (1930), Edward H. Rigby, Miss Anne Longstreth, Frank Wiltshire, and John K. Barrall.

Memorial Shelves

The Library has three endowed memorial shelves. In 1924, six hundred dollars were given in trust to the Library Board by the Alumnae of the Brook Hall Seminary, in memory of Miss Harriet F. Gault, a much loved teacher of that local institution. Miss Gault was later appointed Media post-mistress under President McKinley. Mrs. Edward Worth was instrumental in putting the Memorial into the Library rather than in other channels.

In 1935, the Ernest L. Clark Memorial was established through the efforts of Dr. Walter E. Wentz. With the assistance of Mrs. Ward Batcnolor, friends of the late Dr. Clark gave donations which amounted to the sum of \$300.00. This made possible a perpetual memorial.

In 1939, the Nina W. Wardman Juvenile Memorial was established. Her bequest made possible a children's section in which a table and chairs added to the attractiveness and comfort of that section of the Library.

The Media Free Library also served as the school library from 1928 until 1932.

Borrowers, readers, and student users totaled over one million five hundred thousand in the fifty years of the Library's existence.

Circulation of books and magazines as recorded for the past fifty years totaled one million two hundred fifty-two thousand seven hundred and two.

MINUTES OF FIRST MEETING

Here, in its entirety, is the recorded account of the first meeting of the Media Free Library Association, the birth of the Media Free Library. Here, too, is the Constitution and By-laws of Association.

"A meeting of the citizens of Media was held in the Council room of the Borough of Media, May 14, 1901, for the purpose of organizing a Free Library Association.

T. C. Palmer in the chair.

On motion: duly seconded, the following Constitution and By-laws were adopted:

The Constitution

Article I—Name

The name of this organization shall be: The Media Free Library Association.

Article II—Object

The object of this Association shall be to establish and maintain in Media, Pa., a Library and Free Reading Room, for the residents of Media.

Article III—Membership

On the payment of one dollar, any person may become a member of this Association for the fiscal year ending the second Tuesday of May.

Article IV—Officers

The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and a Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall consist of the above named officers and six members elected by the Association, two at each annual meeting for a term of

three years, except at the first meeting when two shall be elected for one year, two for two years, and two for three years.

Article V—Duties of Officers
Sec. I. The duties of the President and Vice-president shall be such as usually devolve upon presiding officers.

Sec. II. The Secretary shall take minutes of the annual meetings and of the meetings of the Board of Trustees—attend to all Correspondence and care for all records of the Association. He shall also receive and record all membership dues and all donations to the Association and turn over the same to the Treasurer and take his receipt therefore.

Sec. III. The Treasurer shall receive and care for all funds belonging to the Association, and shall disburse same only on orders signed by the Secretary and approved by the President.

Sec. IV. The Board of Trustees shall have the general management of the Association.

Article VI—Meetings

Sec. I. The Annual Meeting of the Association shall be held on the second Tuesday of May. The meeting of the Board of Trustees shall be held on the second Tuesday of each Month.

Sec. II. Special Meeting of the Association may be called by the President at the request of five members, such call to state the object.

Sec. III. A quorum for the transaction of the business at its annual meeting shall consist of ten members.

A quorum of the Board of Trustees shall consist of five members.

Article VII—Nominations

Nominations shall be made by a committee of five members, not more than two of whom shall be officers of the Association. This committee shall be appointed by the President at the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees, two months previous to the annual meeting. The nominations must consist of at least two names for each office. These nominations shall be posted by the Nominations Committee in the Library—one month previous to the annual meeting.

Article VIII—Amendments
This Constitution may be altered or amended by a two-thirds vote of all members present at any meeting of the Association provided that notice of the same shall have been given to the Board of Trustees not less than two months previous to the meeting. Notice of such alteration or amendment shall be posted in the Library at least one month previous to the meeting.

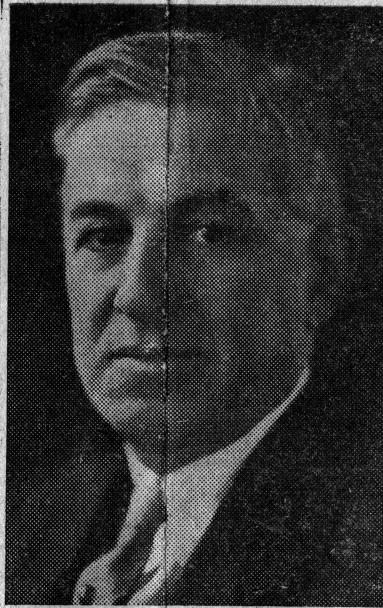
BY-LAWS

A quorum for the transaction of business of the Association shall consist of ten members. A quorum of the Board of Trustees shall consist of five members.

The President shall appoint the following committees: Book Committee, consisting of five members. Finance and Property Committee consisting of three members.

The Book Committee shall supervise the selection, buying, exchanging, and binding of books and pe-

SECOND PRESIDENT



ROBERT FUSSELL

The late Robert Fussell, for years president of the First National Bank of Media, was the second president of the Media Free Library Association, being elected to that position to take the place of Dr. Clark, now deceased.

ridicals and shall have general control of the Library and Reading Room.

The Finance Committee shall provide ways and means for the maintenance of the Library.

The Property Committee shall have charge of equipping and care of the Library.

LIBRARIAN

A Librarian shall be chosen by the Board of Trustees. The Librarian shall have charge of the Library and Reading Room. He shall classify and arrange all books and publications according to such plans as may be approved by the Board. He shall also keep a record of the circulation of the books.

RULES

Rules for the governing of the Library shall be formulated and adopted by the Board of Trustees.

INSERT RULES

These By-laws may be subject to change or amendment at any meeting of the Association by a two-thirds vote of those present, provided that a two weeks' notice of each change be posted in the Library.

Moved and seconded, the Chair appointed a Committee of three to nominate two persons for each office of the Association.

Mrs. Cheyney, Mrs. Lewis and Mr. Green were appointed.

The following Officers were elected:
President—Dr. E. L. Clark; Vice-president—Leon H. Watters; Secretary—Dora Lewis; Treasurer—Anna Cheyney Smith.

Trustees to serve three years—Rebecca Easby, George S. Yarnall.
Trustees to serve two years—Anna Tyndale Wirz, Sarah H. Lewis.

Fred Fish—Daughter used Library quite often while student in high school . . . thinks library is wonderful thing for the community and that we are fortunate in having such a good

LIBRARIAN—1906



REBECCA SMEDLEY

Rebecca Smedley, now deceased, was librarian for 11 years, from 1906 to 1917. She was the second person to hold this position, replacing Miss Edith John.

Trustees to serve one year—Sallie Williamson, Horace P. Green.
The Finance Committee reported \$268.00 in the Treasury.

Moved and seconded, the Secretary and the Treasurer purchase suitable books for the records of the meetings, etc.

Adjournment.
DORA LEWIS, Secretary."

Amendments In Constitution

The following amendments have been made since the Constitution of the Library was drawn up:

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE IV

Article four is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

The officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, and 7 Trustees. The Board of Trustees shall consist of the above named officers, six members elected by the Association, two at each annual meeting for a term of three years, and a member of the Board of School Directors of the Borough of Media, chosen by the said Directors.

AMENDMENT TO ARTICLE VII

Nominations shall be made by a committee of five members, not more than two of whom shall be officers of the Association. This committee shall be appointed by the President at the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees previous to the annual meeting. There shall be at least two nominees for each office and they shall be duly notified by mail of their nomination within five days thereafter. These nominations shall be posted by the Nominations Committee in the Library two weeks prior to the annual meeting and they may be changed by the said Committee in case of death or disability of any nominee.

Mrs. J. C. Gershenfeld—I enjoy Library very much and avail myself of it very often. Boys on one corner settle arguments by using it.

LIBRARIAN—1917 to 1919



KARLENA H. KRUSE

(Now Mrs. Karlana Kruse O'Neal) Karlana H. Kruse, 1917 to 1919, was the second librarian, taking the place of Rebecca Smedley. She sends the following greeting to Media Library Association: "A word of greeting and congratulations to the Media Library Association for their fifty years of fine and helpful service to the reading public. I have many pleasant memories of my years there as librarian with all the friendly contacts made with the children and adults who came to read and study. As I was followed by my sister, I have kept in close touch with the work and want to congratulate you on the many fine improvements and continued growth of the library. May you continue to grow in service to the community. Mrs. Karlana Kruse O'Neal, Lansdale, Pa.

SECRETARY



ANNE LONGSTRETH

Miss Longstreth, of Moylan, a member of the Board of Directors, is secretary of the Board.

LIBRARIAN



MISS E. LOUISE KRUSE

Miss E. Louise Kruse, of 144 E. Front street, is currently librarian of the Media Free Library. She has served in this capacity since 1919.

ASSISTANT LIBRARIAN



MISS OLGA V. DEE

Miss Dee has been assistant librarian at the Media Free Library since September, 1921.

YOU CAN HELP THE MEDIA LIBRARY

The MEDIA LIBRARY is partly supported by Trust Funds willed to the Library Association. Any person wishing to do so may establish a living trust account, naming the First National Bank of Media as trustee, and the revenue from this, normally taxable, can be deducted from income under the educational exemption rule on Federal income tax.

Wilbert Mathis, P.D.—The Library is a mighty fine thing for the community.

Dean White—The Library has been a great source of help to kids in school . . . and I have also used it for reference in my activities. Library Association is doing good job . . .

Fred Fish—Daughter used Library quite often while student in high school . . . thinks library is

wonderful thing for the community and that we are fortunate in having such a good

Mrs. J. C. Gershenfeld—I enjoy Library very much and avail myself of it very often. Boys on one corner settle arguments by using it.

Frank Ross—My two kids used Library quite often in connection with school work.

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CONGRATULATIONS

to

THE MEDIA FREE LIBRARY

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF MEDIA

1864 — 1951

C. FRANK WILLIAMSON REMINISCES

By C. FRANK WILLIAMSON

BOARD MEMBER



C. Frank Williamson, one of Media's oldest and most prominent citizens, is a member of the Library Board.

The Media Free Library was organized May 14, 1901, and took possession of a room in the Borough Hall. The organization meeting was well attended and created a great deal of interest. T. Chaikay Palmer was the temporary chairman and Miss Dora Lewis the temporary secretary. The Woman's Club of Media was the direct sponsor of the library in its incipency as almost all of the 100 members enrolled at the beginning were members of that club. 100 volumes were catalogued and available for circulation. The library soon outgrew its quarters and then used the Council Chamber. The first permanent officers were: President Dr. Ernest L. Clark, Vice-President Prof. Leon H. Waters, Secretary Miss Dora Lewis, Treasurer Mrs. Harry Smith, Trustees George S. Yarnall, Mrs. Wm. F. Lewis, Mrs. Henry Wirz, Horace R. Green, Esq., Miss Sallic R. Williamson. The Finance Committee reported \$200 cash in hand and \$200 pledged, all exclusive of the membership fee of \$1.00 per year which still remains. The organization grew at such a rate that in 1907 it moved into its own building erected with funds given by the people of Media and adjacent communities. The 30th annual report was given by the librarian Miss E. Louise Kruse, May 1941, which gave the story of the library and carried on by facts and figures a very revealing picture of the years of service. In the 40 years, 1,029,022 books circulated. Borrowers, readers and students totaled 1,168,521. In these 40 years there

had only been three presidents, Dr. Ernest L. Clark, serving from 1901 to 1927, Robert Fussell from 1927 to 1933, and the present president, Arthur B. Griffith, from 1933. There have been six treasurers: Mrs. Cheyney Smith, Mrs. Alfred L. Hawkins, Anna J. Darlington, Robert Fussell, John Vance Lattimer and Edward Hudson Rigby. Four secretaries have held office,

Miss Dora Lewis, Mrs. Anne T. Wirz, Miss Elizabeth Tyndall and Miss Esther F. Bell. Miss Edith John was the first librarian, 1901-1906; Miss Rebecca Smedley, 1906-1912; Miss Karlene H. Kruse, 1912-1919; and the present incumbent, Miss E. Louise Kruse, from 1919. Other board members in addition to those already mentioned were Sarah H. Lewis, Harry L. Broomall, Miss Mary S. Allen, Walter Smedley, Dr. Edward Fitch, Mrs. Joann Cooke McAllister, Wm. H. Dickson, Elizabeth Hall, Albert J. Williams, A. B. Babbitt, Walter R. Johns, C. Frank Williamson, John Vance Lattimer, Mrs. E. D. Wadsworth, Mrs. I. W. Farquerson, Mrs. Maurice Zinn, Mrs. Ada Pomeroy, Miss Mildred Dallet, Rev. W. H. Michaels, Mrs. Thomas Bartram, Mrs. Walter Wentz, Jr., Edward H. Rigby, Arthur B. Griffith, Edward Longstreth and Frank Wiltshire. The library has three memorial shelves. In 1924, \$600 was given in trust to the Board by the Alumnae of Brook Hall Seminary in memory of Miss Harriet F. Gault, a much loved teacher of that institution. In 1935 the Ernest L. Clark Memorial was established through the efforts of Dr. Walter E. Wentz with the assistance of Mrs. Ward B. Batchelor. Friends of Dr. Clark gave \$300. This made possible a perpetual memorial. In 1939 the Nina W. Wardman Juvenile Memorial was established. Her bequest made possible a children's section in which a table and chairs added to the attractiveness and comfort to that section. \$30.00 annually is applied to this. Mr. Percy Hamilton has always been the magazine buyer for the library and still attends to that duty.

(Continued from page 5)

Our library takes us to many fascinating places, a rocket trip to the moon or a far-away star, to the bottom of the ocean, to parts of the earth, into a drop of water, to Alice's Wonderland, far-off Africa, to old Scotland, the gold fields of Alaska, to ancient Rome, any of these places and many more.

You can learn the history of our United States, not only from history books and biographies, but in the many historical novels. It is true that the facts are not always authentic and they may be twisted to suit the story, but still it is possible to get a fairly accurate and romantic picture of the facts as they are presented.

In our library it is possible to meet many interesting people. Why in the Jalna series you can meet Renny, redheaded, horselover, Old Adeline and young Adeline, Wakefield, Renny's young brother; Finch, pianist and dreamer; Ernest and Nickolas, Renny's aged uncles, Archer, Pheasant, Moore, Pierre and Eden are but a few of the people, old and young, that you meet in the Jalna books.

As for animals, Lassie, who came home, Will James' immortal cow-pony Smokey and his tough little broco Scorpion, there's Sham who started a new line of thoroughbreds, the Black Stallion and his sons, Satin and the Blood Bag, and of course Thunderhead and Flicka.

These are but a few of the people and animals, fact and fiction near and far, common and odd, places and things I have become acquainted with and they are there just for the finding. Our library has given me many happy and useful hours and I hope it has done the same for you.

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MISS ELIZABETH HALL

Miss Elizabeth Hall is the oldest living member of the Board, in point of service, having been appointed to that position in 1912.

Fifty years of continuous service! From a small room in the Borough Hall and a few books (many of them donated) to a building all its own and twelve thousand four hundred volumes. Such has been, is, and will be the Media Library.

At the beginning of the century many things were discussed in the Media families—how long should the new church pews be to seat the ladies wearing leg-o-mutton sleeves; who was responsible for the incendiary fires; but primarily was a public library a disease carrier. Surely, Media needed a library but—free circulation of books was bound to increase the spreading of scarlet fever, measles, diphtheria, and on and on. However, Dr. Clarke and his cohorts said that couldn't happen and produced statistics to prove same—so the Media Library was born! And it didn't have Andrew Carnegie's name on it, either.

Until 1938 the Library carried the entire load of Public School reference work and outside reading. Previously in order to use the Library during school hours there had been a continual parade of boys and girls, often clothed in rubber shoes and raincoats, trudging up the alley to look up references, borrow books, and meet the opposite sex. With the establishment of the school library the reference work has continued with but little abatement, as the school library is not available after four o'clock and, be-

and biography. The magazine section is more diversified because of the varying interests of the readers and the numerous gifts.

The Library has been fortunate from the beginning in its many benefactors—endowments established in memory of Miss Harriet Gault, Miss Nina Wardman, Dr. Ernest L. Clarke, and the gift more recently from Miss Matilda Sproggell. But best of all has been the vital living interest of the people of Media, expressed year after year by the Society of Friends, the Business Men's organizations, the Women's Club, the School District, and the Borough Council.

What are some of the library problems? Of course—MONEY! How could there be a library without librarians, books, and a building? We'll leave the housing for a later date. But librarians and books we must have. There is no union of librarians. Enough said! Do any of you remember when even the best of the fiction list could be purchased for \$1.10? Look at the price lists now. That \$1.10 novel has gone with the 40-cent butter and the 20-cent eggs. Fewer people are buying books now for two reasons—price and apartments. In our modern housing, space is of the essence. Many people cannot afford the space for four books a year over a period of five years. There are some things that television and the twenty-five-cent shelves in the newsstands cannot supply. And it is for these things you NEED a library—Your Public Library.

BOARD MEMBER

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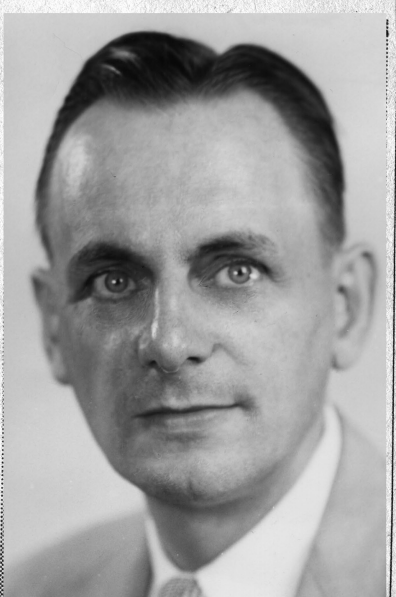
MRS. ELIZABETH MACKAY WENTZ

Mrs. Elizabeth Mackay Wentz is a member of the Board of Directors of the Library Board.



MISS ESTHER F. BELL

Miss Bell, of 230 N. Monroe street, is a member of the Board of Directors, having served in that capacity since about 1920.



FRANK T. WILTSHIRE

Mr. Wiltshire is a member of the Board. He is also a member of Borough Council.

" . . . within whose silent chambers, treasure lies preserved from age to age; more precious far than accumulated gold . . . whose truth you can unlock at will . . . "

About two-thirds of the expense of maintaining and operating the Media Free Library is paid from Public Funds.

The remainder must be met from interest on several trust funds of moderate amounts, book fines and sundry other sources and annual dues of members of the Media Free Library Association.

There are 275 dues paying members; it will help greatly if this number can be increased.

Anyone desiring to help the Library by becoming a member can do so by filling out the attached application and sending it to the Librarian with the first year's dues in the amount selected by the applicant.

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